

Le Fevre House
1444 Moore
Campbell
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2281

HABS
CAL.
43-CAMP,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LE FEVRE HOUSE

HABS No. CA-2281

HABS
CAL.
43-CAMP
2-

Location: 1444 Moore, Campbell, Santa Clara County,
California.

UTM: 10.590000.4124830
Quad: San Jose West, Calif. 7.5'

Date of Construction: Circa 1905-1910.

Present Owner: California Department of Transportation
District 4
Division of Right of Way
P.O. Box 7310
San Francisco 94120

Present Use: Residential.

Significance: A high degree of architectural integrity, coupled with the mature period landscaping, makes this small complex a good and increasingly rare example of an early 20th century farmstead, a property type rapidly disappearing before the onslaught of development in the Santa Clara Valley. The Le Fevre House and Barn have been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, significant in the area of architecture at the local level.

Historian: John W. Snyder
Chief Architectural Historian
California Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Analysis
650 Howe Avenue
Sacramento CA 95825

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1904, Alphonse O. Le Fevre acquired some 20 acres of land from Amasa Eaton. Le Fevre, listed in the Santa Clara County directory as an orchardist, sold the property in 1914 to L.G. Le Fevre. Since Alphonse was noted in the deed as a single man, L.G. was presumably a brother or nephew. Which of them may have built this house remains unknown, but stylistically it most likely dates to the ownership of Alphonse O. Le Fevre. In the years intervening since his ownership, the parcel on which the house stands has been diminished to little more than a large residential lot. However, adjoining parcels in other ownership still retain a portion of the walnut orchard which the house and barn last served. However, virtually all of the immediate vicinity has been subdivided and newly-built residences stand as the latest cash crop where once grew orchards.

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PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Le Fevre House (HABS No. CA-2281) is a 1-1/2 story wood frame Colonial Revival style farmhouse. Exterior walls are sheathed in three-lap, round-edge drop siding, though wood shingles have been applied over the original siding on the east side of the house. The gable roof is clad in composition shingles laid over the original wood shingles. Windows are principally one-over-one double-hung in single, paired, and triple applications, though here are also single-lite casement windows in the dormer, and single- and multi-lite fixed windows elsewhere. The main entry is recessed beneath a projecting front gable which is supported by Tuscan columns to form a veranda. The house rests over a basement. Architectural details typical of the style include: the aforementioned columns which rest on plinths; ogive barge boards; a plain entablature surmounting an architrave moulding, and in turn surmounted by a dentil course; a hip-roofed dormer; exterior brick fireplace and chimney placed in the gable end; sidelights flanking the front door, and fanlight surmounting the back door; gable returns forming pedimented gables.

The Le Fevre Barn (HABS No. CA-2281-A) is a 1-1/2 story Dutch plan barn originally used for carriage and farm implement storage. It features board-and-batten siding with milled battens, Dutch loft doors, and a gable roof with clerestory. The

structure has few alterations, the most obvious being closure of the vents in the clerestory, which would have vented the hay loft, and installation of composition shingle roofing over the original wood shingles.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Santa Clara County Directory, San Francisco, Polk Co., 1909-1910.

Field survey, October 1983.

Chain of Title, 1984.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Le Fevre House and Barn will be impacted by construction of State Route 85 in the West Valley Transportation Corridor. In 1956 and 1957 the California Highway Commission (today the California Transportation Commission, or CTC) adopted the alignment location of State Route 85 between Highway 101 in south San Jose and Highway 101 in Mountain View. The Commission executed freeway agreements with the various municipalities involved during the late 1950s and early 1960s, and construction commenced on the northerly end of the route in the 1960s. However, funding constraints halted construction in 1975, with some 18 miles of the route still unbuilt. This unbuilt portion, extending from Highway 101 in south San Jose to the existing interchange between State Route 85 and Interstate Highway 280 in Cupertino, is now to be completed.

The project will provide a six-lane freeway, two lanes of which will be commuter lanes dedicated exclusively to buses and high occupancy vehicles. Mitigation measures such as noise attenuation, landscaping, and construction sequencing will minimize project impacts. Project cost is estimated to be \$495 million, sourced from Santa Clara County "Measure A" sales tax funds, as well as from State and Federal funds.

On March 13, 1987, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation ratified a Memorandum of Agreement specifying the mitigation measures to be taken with regard to project impacts upon the Le Fevre House and Barn. These measures included recordation to the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey, followed by relocation of the house in accordance with the standards set forth in *Moving Historic Buildings*, and transfer of ownership to the City of San Jose. This documentation set comprises the agreed-upon recordation. The City of San Jose has resolved to provide a parcel of land within Emma Prousch Park, as a relocation site, to accept title to the house, and to ensure that

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all rehabilitation and maintenance work will be carried out in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings*. In conjunction with a 19th-century farmhouse and outbuildings already located at the park, the Le Fevre House and Barn will be used interpretively in a Santa Clara Valley farm setting. The California State Historic Preservation Officer has concurred in the appropriateness of the relocation site, as well as in the measures to provide long-term protection and preservation of the House. Relocation is scheduled for late 1989 or early 1990.

Site Plan Sketch (no scale)

